

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03898 132032Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123964 132036Z /12

O 131952Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2228
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO YXHDSVFTE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3898

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NU, CS
SUBJ: NICARAGUA MFM

REF: STATE 231820

1. SUMMARY: CARAZO IS PLEASED THAT WE HAVE ACTED QUICKLY TO SEEK A STRONG OAS RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THAT WE HAVE OUTLINED THE STEPS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE FROM MFM. HE STILL HOLDS OUT HOPE FOR SOME KIND OF MEDIATION, BUT NO LONGER FINDS IT EITHER POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE DOMESTICALLY OR MOST FEASIBLE THAT SUCH A MOVE PROCEED IN A CA CONTEXT. THE GOCR IS INTENT, HOWEVER, ON PRESSING OTHER CA COUNTRIES TO GET BEHIND THE OAS MFM CALL.

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2. CARAZO AGREES COMPLETELY ON THE NEED TO HAVE A STRONG SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR CONVOCATION UNDER ARTICLE 59 AND WAS GRATIFIED THAT WE ARE TAKING QUICK AND FORCEFUL ACTION TO HELP OBTAIN SUCH SUPPORT. HE SAID THAT COSTA RICAN AMBASSADORS IN EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, AND GUATEMALA HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF

CONVOCAION, BUT COSTA RICA DOES NOT NOW PLAN DEMARCHES IN OTHER LA CAPITALS. CARAZO ALSO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE LISTING PROVIDED OF USG VIEWS OF WHAT AN MFM MIGHT ACHIEVE (PARA 6, REFTEL). HE ENDORSED SPECIFICALLY THE CONTEMPLATED OAS FACT-FINDING COMMISSION TO NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA; HE DID NOT REACT TO THE PHRASING OF AN MFM "CALL FOR ENDING INCURSIONS FROM ONE TERRITORY INTO ANOTHER".

3. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE OAS CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR SOME KIND OF MEDIATION, CARAZO SAID THAT THE EVENTS OF SEPT. 12 MAKE IT DIFFICULT POLITICALLY OR EVEN USEFUL FOR COSTA RICA AGAIN TO LEAD OR EVEN ENGAGE IN A MEDIATION EFFORT. (ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, AFTER I HAD INFORMED CARAZO OF AMBASSADOR SOLAUN'S REPORT OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE AMONG NICARAGUAN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO THE CA INITIATIVE, CARAZO SAID IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE HIM TO LEARN THAT SOMOZA HAD AUTHORIZED THE SEPT. 12 ATTACK IN GOOD PART BECAUSE OF HIS DISPLEASURE OVER SUCH SUPPORT EVOKED BY THE GOCR MEDIATION INITIATIVE.

4. CARAZO CONCLUDED THAT OTHER CENTRAL AMERICANS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF HONDURAS, HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES FINALLY TO BE OPPOSED TO CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDIATION. HE WAS AWARE FROM CONTACTS IN GUATEMALA THAT DIFFERENT OFFICIALS THERE WERE EXPRESSING DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE INITIATIVE, BUT BELIEVED THAT THE FINAL OUTCOME WOULD BE DISTINCTLY NEGATIVE. IN HONDURAS, HE SAID, THERE WAS MORE FLEXIBILITY, IN PART BECAUSE HONDURAS
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SHARED THE BORDER PROBLEM WITH NICARAGUA. IN ANY EVENT, CARAZO SAID, COSTA RICAN LEADERSHIP OF A MEDIATION EFFORT FOLLOWING THE SEPT. 12 INCIDENT WOULD NOW BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC. HOWEVER, HE STILL HOPED THAT SOME KIND OF MEDIATION EFFORT MIGHT PROSPER AND SAID THAT COSTA RICA WOULD

SUPPORT MEDIATION BY ANY USEFUL COMBINATION OF COUNTRIES WERE THAT POSSIBILITY TO ARISE THROUGH AN OAS CALL FOR EXTERNAL MEDIATION.
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